DECLASSIFIED

EXCISE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY,

OFFICIAL-INFORMAL
SECRET

Brussels, August 11, 1954.

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

In view of your latest message and my own instincts in the matter, I consider it desirable that I inform you by letter, rather than by telegram, of certain aspects of the EDC situation as seen from Brussels. These aspects have to do with Spaak's recent role and, in a sense, represent nothing new that fundamentally changes the picture. This story merely adds another piece to the puzzle.

In recent conversations with Rothschild I have given him every opportunity to elaborate on Spaak's activities. He has steadfastly held to the ground that Spaak's activities in Paris had been misunderstood, that Jebb had misinterpreted what Spaak had said, that Andre De Staercke had been told to set things right by correcting any misunderstanding of Spaak's views and that the French Ambassador himself had been called in by Rothschild and given a clear statement of Spaak's position. This position was and is that Spaak would accept no substantive changes in the EDC treaty, would accept no modifications requiring resubmission of the treaty to national parliaments and would in no way compromise the basic supra-national features of the treaty. I have done this in a very indirect fashion without revealing that there was any question in my mind regarding Spaak's stand. Rothschild himself has given leads for most of my queries.

The Honorable
David K.E. Bruce,
U.S. Observer to the Interim
Committee of the EDC,
American Embassy,
Paris.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY CFL DATE 7-1-81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

I have also queried Rothschild regarding the modifications that Spaak had directed a Foreign Office group, including Rothschild, to draw up for consideration in connection with the meeting of the EDC Foreign Ministers. Rothschild has never gone into details with me on them and I have not pushed the matter. Following recent developments I again queried Rothschild regarding these proposed or possible changes and have given an opening for him to furnish me a copy. He has said that Spaak had no intention of making them available to the French and he has not taken the bait I offered to furnish me a copy of such changes.

RI-EB

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

I have been assuming that you would be in constant touch with Andre De Staercke on this matter of any misinterpretation of Spaak's views and, since Rothschild had told me that De Staercke had been told to correct any misunderstanding in this regard, I had considered it advisable and desirable that we keep out of this unless otherwise instructed. I trust that this is an example of M. Talleyrand's "pas trop de zele" and that we have kept things on even keel insofar as we were concerned.

May I again emphasize that in every comment on the EDC treaty that Rothschild himself has made to me he has continually emphasized that Spaak both publicly and privately is firmly committed to opposing any substantive modification of the treaty or any changes that would require resubmission to the parliaments of the EDC countries. These are not comments that he has made only since the reports of certain alleged activities on the part of Spaak but comments that he has been making ever since the idea of the meeting of the EDC Ministers was first broached.

I should appreciate your bringing this letter to Ambassador Dillon's attention in the event it throws any new light on the subject and I am enclosing a copy of the letter, which you may wish to forward to Livie Merchant for his background information.

Sincerely yours,

Philip D. Sprouse

Philip D. Sprouse
Counselor of Embassy

DECLASSIFIED